

REMARKS

As a preliminary, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for the personal interview which was held on May 4, 2004.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to add section titles and reference numbers for the pumps and pressure sensors of the respective modules, and the drawings have been amended to show schematically the pumps and pressure sensors.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to be divided in paragraphs, to recite that the perfusion device comprising a plurality of perfusion modules I, to clarify that the at least one junction point enables connection of at least one of the lines i with (a) at least another of the lines i or (b) at least one line from at least one unit external to the perfusion device, and to recite positive steps of detecting, among lines i of modules i, a variation of pressure P_k in a line k of a module k, and determining, among modules i other than module k, an involvement of one or several modules j in this pressure variation, by an analytical process.

Claim 24 has been amended accordingly, in particular by reciting means for analyzing the pressure variation in the perfusion device by detecting, among lines i of modules i, a variation of pressure P_k in a line k of a module k, and determining, among modules i other than module k, an involvement of one or several modules j in this pressure variation, using an analytical process.

The other claims have also been amended to clarify the reference letters "i", "j", and "k" as introduced in claim 1, namely, "i" refers to any module, "j" refers to a module affected by the pressure variation, and "k" refers to the module for which the pressure variation is detected. Support for the use of these reference letters is found in the original application, in particular on page 11, five last paragraphs.

Further, new claims 25-28 have been added. Support for new claims 25-28 is found in the original application, in particular on page 17, last full paragraph before last, and page 20, three last paragraphs.

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, and claims 2-23 and 25-26 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a method for analysis of the pressure variation in a perfusion device. Independent claim 24, and claims 27-28 dependent thereon, are directed to a perfusion device.

In the Office Action, the drawings and the specification are objected to. The Examiner alleges that the blocks on Fig. 1 are not descriptive, and that section titles are missing in the specification.

Fig. 1 has been amended to show the pumps and the pressure sensors with their reference numbers, and the specification has been amended to add section titles and corresponding reference numbers. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objections should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1, 7-12 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. It is alleged in the Office Action that the phrase “connection of certain lines among each other” in claims 1 and 24 is unclear, and that the expression “another line” in claim 7 is also unclear.

Present claims 1 and 24 now recite « junction point enabling connection of at least one of the lines i with (a) at least another of the lines i or (b) at least one line from at least one unit external to the perfusion device” and claim 7 now recites “another line i”.

More generally, the claims have been amended to indicate the reference letters “i”, “j” and “k”. The application, in particular the passage on page 11, five last paragraphs, explains in details

the meaning of the reference letters “i”, “j”, and “k” in the present application, as discussed above.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,647,853 to Feldmann et al. (Feldmann).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed during the personal interview, Feldmann does not disclose any junction point among a plurality of lines. Accordingly, Feldmann does not provide any teaching or suggestion regarding determining the involvement of other modules in the pressure variation detected in one module, as recited in present claims 1 and 24.

In contrast, in the method and device of the presently claimed invention, when a variation of pressure P_k in a line k of a module k is detected among lines i of a plurality of modules i , an involvement in this pressure variation of one or several modules j , among modules i other than module k , is determined by an analytical process, as recited in present claims 1 and 24.

An advantage of this feature is that malfunctions due to the fact that certain lines may be connected to each other can be avoided, as discussed in the present specification. In particular, the present specification illustrate embodiments of the present invention and their advantages, for example from page 4, last paragraph to page 5, first paragraph (general presentation of three variants), on page 12, last full paragraph and the paragraph bridging pages 12-13 (detailed illustration of a first variant that makes it possible to explain cause for pressure variation), on page 14, first paragraph, and on page 15, last paragraph (detailed illustration of a second variant that makes it possible to locate an obstruction).

In summary, the features of the presently claimed invention and their advantages are not taught or suggested in Feldmann, and therefore, the present claims are not anticipated by, and not

obvious over, Feldmann.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

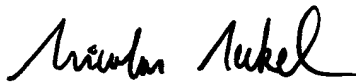
In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: Substitute Sheet of Drawings and Marked-Up Version

Petition for One-Month Extension of Time